The Story of the Companion: Four Wives and the Command to Perform Hajj

Islamic Stories - Volume 23

Written by Mansoor Ali Shah

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means-electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise-without the prior written permission of the copyright holder.

Chapter 1: The Prophetic Vision and Family Expansion

Divine Encouragement: The Legacy of Large Families

In the modern era, global discourse promotes adherence to family planning. However, the beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ offered a divergent perspective grounded in spiritual foresight and communal strength.

He advised his followers to marry women who were likely to bear many children, for he expressed pride in the numerical strength of his Ummah on the Day of Judgement.

Aspiration ﷺ The Prophet's

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:

"Marry women who are loving and fertile, for I will be proud of your great numbers before the other nations on the Day of Judgement."

Economic Concerns: A Companion's Dilemma

A companion of the Prophet ﷺ approached him with a pressing concern rooted in financial hardship.

First Petition:

Companion:

"O Messenger of Allah ﷺ! I have one wife, but there is a constraint in provision."

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:

"Go and marry again."

The companion obeyed and entered into another marriage. Soon after, he returned with the same concern.

Second Petition:

Companion:

"O Messenger of Allah ﷺ! I now have two wives, but sustenance remains tight."

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:

"Go and marry again."

Multiplying Marriages: Increasing Responsibility

The companion, following the guidance of the Prophet ﷺ, married a third woman. Yet, financial ease did not manifest as anticipated, prompting him to return once more.

Third Petition:

Companion:

"O Messenger of Allah ﷺ! I now have three wives, and still the provisions are insufficient."

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:

"Go and marry a fourth."

Upon marrying a fourth time, the companion returned with the same concern, noting the continued scarcity of resources.

Fourth Petition:

Companion:

"O Messenger of Allah ﷺ! I now have four wives, and still the provision is meagre."

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:

"Now go for pilgrimage."

Spiritual Wealth: The Economics of Divine Trust

Although outwardly expenses had increased, the Prophet ﷺ assured him that through the blessings of pilgrimage,

Allah would increase his provision. The instruction signified a transition from practical intervention to spiritual reliance.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:

"Your sustenance appears less, but in truth, Allah is increasing it through the blessings of pilgrimage."

Thus, rather than focusing solely on material means, the emphasis was placed on trusting in Allah's providence.

The directive advised believers to shift their gaze from their wallets to the limitless bounty of the Divine.

Clarifying the Stance: National versus Familial Planning

A concluding declaration affirmed a nuanced position: while national planning and strategic development are strongly supported, family planning—when pursued in defiance of divine trust—is opposed.